Remarks
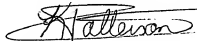
Applicants respectfully request entry of the proposed Preliminary Amendment to the Specification. With respect to a reference made in the present Application to the Parent Application (i.e., U.S. Patent Application No. 09/427,792), this Preliminary Amendment hereby seeks to clarify the relationship between the two. As indicated in the proposed Preliminary Amendment, the present Application is a continuation-in-part of the Parent Application. The Preliminary Amendment also seeks to update filing and status information for various other applications incorporated by reference.

This change is believed to introduce no new matter. Based on the above Preliminary Amendment, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to consider and examine the present invention in light of the relevant art.

Respectfully submitted,

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Version with markings to show changes made

1. The Specification has been changed as follows:

   a. A markup of the substitution for paragraphs [0001] to [0006] and [0008] to [0011] is as follows:

   [0001]   This application [claims benefit] is a continuation-in-part of U.S. Patent [Serial] Application No. 09/427,792, entitled "System and Method for Multiplexing Data from Multiple Sources," filed October 27, 1999, by Limb *et al.*, (still pending), which is incorporated by reference herein in its entirety[; and]. This application claims the benefit of the following United States provisional applications:

   [0002]   U.S. Patent [Serial] Application No. 60/182,470, entitled "Intelligent Silence Suppression," filed February 15, 2000, by Gummalla *et al.*, ([still pending] abandoned), which is incorporated by reference herein in its entirety;

   [0003]   U.S. Patent [Serial] Application No. 60/247,188 [(Attorney Docket No. CPH 40892 (BP 1560))], entitled "A Local Scheduling Mechanism for Cable Modems," filed November 9, 2000, by Sala *et al.*, ([still pending] abandoned), which is incorporated by reference herein in its entirety;

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[0004]   U.S. Patent [Serial] <u>Application</u> No. 60/254,415 [(Attorney Docket No. CPH 40892 (BP 1560.1))], entitled "A Local Scheduling Mechanism for Cable Modems," filed December 8, 2000, by Sala *et al.* ([still pending] <u>abandoned</u>), which is incorporated by reference herein in its entirety;

[0005]   U.S. Patent [Serial] <u>Application</u> No. 60/262,201 [(Attorney Docket No. CPH 41359 (BP 1702))], entitled "Voice Scheduling Algorithms," filed January 17, 2001, by Sala *et al.* ([still pending] <u>abandoned</u>), which is incorporated by reference herein in its entirety; and

[0006]   U.S. Patent [Serial] <u>Application</u> No. 60/262,203 [(Attorney Docket No. CPH 41362 (BP 1705))], entitled "Concatenation of Requests at CMTS," filed January 17, 2001, by Sala *et al.* ([still pending] <u>abandoned</u>),which is incorporated by reference herein in its entirety.

[0008]   "[System and Method to Support Constant Bit Rate Services in a Shared Communication System] <u>Voice Architecture for Transmission Over a Shared, Contention Based Medium</u>," U.S. Patent [Serial] <u>Application</u> No. [TBD (Attorney Docket No. 40672/LTR/B600)] <u>09/785,020,</u> by Gummalla *et al.*, filed [concurrently herewith and] <u>February 15, 2001, which is</u> incorporated by reference herein in its entirety;

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[0009]   "System and Method for Suppressing Silence for Support in Voice Traffic over an Asynchronous Communication Medium," U.S. Patent [Serial] <u>Application</u> No. [TBD (Attorney Docket No. 1875.0430001)] <u>09/783,405,</u> by Gummalla *et al.*, filed [concurrently herewith and] <u>February 15, 2001, which is</u> incorporated by reference herein in its entirety;

[0010]   "Cable Modem System and Method for Specialized Data Transfer," U.S. Patent [Serial] <u>Application</u> No. [TBD (Attorney Docket No. 1875.0460001)] <u>09/783,403</u>, by Bunn *et al.*, filed [concurrently herewith and] <u>February 15, 2001, which is</u> incorporated by reference herein in its entirety; and

[0011]   "System and Method for Combining Requests for Data [Packets] <u>Bandwidth</u> by a Data Provider for Transmission of Data Over an Asynchronous Communication Medium," U.S. Patent [Serial] <u>Application</u> No. [TBD (Attorney Docket No. 1875.0450001)] <u>09/783,311,</u> by Gummalla *et al.*, filed [concurrently herewith and] <u>February 15, 2001, which is</u> incorporated by reference herein in its entirety.